

WORLD LANGUAGES

Languages have been in use for decades and decades, by people to communicate with one another and each other. Some languages can sound similar in terms of sounds and letters while some can be completely different but the conclusion is that they are used for the same purpose which is communication of information. One of the best definitions of what language means puts it this way; a system of conventional spoken written symbols by means of which human beings as members of a social group and participants in its culture express themselves. As of 2022, there are 193 countries in the world thus resulting in the 7,139 languages we have today. Some are often spoken, they can be classified as Major languages (English, Spanish, French) and the rest can be classified as Minor languages (Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa) but out of these, the most widely used language in the world is English with nearly over 1.3 billion speakers. English is commonly used in the United States of America, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and Anglophone countries.

A country can have more than one language, an official language and a second language. To cite an example, Nigeria, has over 500 dialects as native languages and one official language, English. This is because She was colonised by the British in 1914 by Lord Fredrick Lugard. He brought the language to Nigeria and started building schools and institutions to promote the use of English for learning. Then on the 1st of October 1960 Nigeria gained independence. But this has left the mode of learning (from Kindergarten to University) to be English ever since, particularly British English with its spellings and word vocabularies. Nevertheless, native dialects are still used for oral communication. There are 36 states in Nigeria, each one having a

distinctive dialect, cultural dressing and food.

My experience studying in Ukraine has been a learning process as I began to understand Her culture and people gradually. Ukraine happens to be a monolingual country meaning having one language of communication. This is greatly beneficial because it supports oneness amongst themselves. Due to my ethnic background of multilingual dialects, it was not easy at the beginning to adapt until I started learning the Ukrainian language at the University. Making it easier to communicate with people in the store, in the hostel, in transports. As of now, I am familiar with three main languages; Yoruba, English and Ukrainian. To expatriate more I would like to give an example of how these languages can be written. In English «I am happy», in Yoruba «inu mi dun» and in Ukrainian «я щасливий». It was definitely a good step taken by me to know other languages. It removes language barriers and makes the brain more healthy and smart.

Let us go into the account of how languages came to be. There is a biblical parable that explains why there are so many tongues existing in the world today. This story can be found in the Holy Bible in Genesis 11: 1-9. During this time, only a single language was used by the people in the whole land. There was a certain tribe who had the intention of building a very great tower, as high as the sky. The reason being pride. They exalted themselves as equal to God and wanted to be revered, respected for their mighty tower they built. Forgetting that no one can be like or equal to God for He alone is the most supreme. Then God saw the evil intentions of their heart and came down in a thunderous cloud. He put in the mouths of each of them a different language. So that they would not understand each other and then the construction of the tower will be stopped. After this, they scattered to various regions and started another life. Their upcoming generations learnt other languages, and till this day it is still in existence. This is the foundation for the formation of the diverse cultures and tongues today.

I believe God knows all languages and understands all thoughts. He is

good and never does evil. He likes us to be filled with good intentions and actions. He is also the best teacher. He helps me to understand not only languages but subjects at university. He loves everyone irrespective of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, treats everyone with a good heart and He wants us to do the same to one another. In conclusion, races, tribes and cultural backgrounds differ and are created due to the unique dialect, language, tongue spoken by a nation. But these should not separate us but bring us as one. This will promote political and economic growth within a nation and between nations.